

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 H-01 L-03 IO-13 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2837

CONFIDENTIAL ASUNCION 1602

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PA

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL MESSAGES TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER

REF: A) STATE 95619, B) STATE 63474

1. ON APRIL 20 I DELIVERED TWO LETTERS, ONE FROM A GROUP OF U.S. SENATORS, THE OTHER FROM A GROUP OF U.S. CONGRESSMEN, TO FOREIGN MINISTER NOGUES. THE LETTERS, WHICH ARE ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER, TREAT OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PARAGUAY. THE DEPARTMENT HAS COPIES OF THE LETTERS.

2. THE LETTERS HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF LENGTHY DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND ME. I HAD PRESSED THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO LET ME DELIVER THE LETTERS DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER. THE FOREIGN MINISTER RESISTED THIS COURSE BECAUSE, I BELIEVE, THE PRESIDENT HAD NOT, AT LEAST UP TO YESTERDAY, TAKEN THE DECISION TO ADMIT THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC) AND THERE IS COLLECTIVE EMBARRASSMENT OVER THIS SITUATION. MY INTENTION WAS TO FORCE A FAVORABLE DECISION BY KEEPING UP THE PRESSURE FOR A PRESIDENTIAL AUDIENCE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

3. COMMENT: THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT THE TACTIC MAY HAVE SUCCEEDED. ORIGINALLY, MY APPOINTMENT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 19. I PURPOSELY DID NOT INFORM

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NOGUES OF THE PURPOSE OF MY VISIT AND I ASSUME THAT HE TOUGHT I WAS AGAIN GOING TO DISCUSS THE IAHRC VISIT, THE PRESIDENTIAL AUDIENCE AND THE LETTERS. THE FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED TO POSTPONE OUR SESSION UNTIL THE NEXT DAY STATING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING. THE EVENING OF APRIL 19 PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR PAPPALARDO TOLD THE DCM AND ME THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD MET THAT MORNING WITH HIS ADVISORS, INCLUDING PAPPALARDO,

AND HAD ANNOUNCED THAT IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE PROMISE MADE BY PAPPALARDO (SIC) TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, THAT AN IAHRC VISIT TO PARAGUAY WOULD TAKE PLACE. ACCORDING TO PAPPALARDO, THERE WAS NO COMMENT FROM THE ASSEMBLED GROUP. THEY ACCEPTED THE DECISION AS A ROUTINE MATTER AND WENT ON TO OTHER THINGS.

4. WE HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION TO CONFIRM PAPPALARDO'S REPORT. HOWEVER, WHEN I GAVE THE LETTERS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER HE SAID HE WOULD GIVE THEM TO THE PRESIDENT TOMORROW. NOGUES ADDED THAT HE EXPECTED TO HAVE NEWS FOR ME ON ANOTHER MATTER SHORTLY.

WHITE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
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TAGS: SHUM, PDIP, PA, US, IAHRC, (STROESSNER, ALFREDO)
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